

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC

SUBJ: TEXT OF ITALIAN COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF NUNN
AMENDMENT

REF: USNATO 0741

MISSION PROVIDES BELOW INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF FRENCH TEXT OF
REMARKS BY ITALIAN AMBASSADOR CATALANO AT THE FEB 11 NPG
PERMREPS METTING ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT:

BEGIN TEXT:

FIRST, MAY I JOIN THOSE COLLEAGUES WHO PRECEDED ME IN
EXPRESSING MY THANKS TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, TO SACEUR AND
TO SHAPE FOR THE TRULY REMARKABLE WORK THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.
MY THANKS ALSO GO TO THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF AND TO YOU, R.
CHAIRMAN, FOR THE VERY CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION YOU HAVE MADE
TO THE PREPARATION OF THIS DISCUSSION.

NATURALLY, I AM AWARE THAT THE DEADLINES ENVISAGED BY
SECRET

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THE NUNN AMENDMENT - OF WHICH YOU REMINDED US TODAY - IMPOSE
UPON US A RATHER RAPID PROCEDURE IN EVALUATING THE SUBJECT
TO WHICH THIS MEETING IS DEVOTED, BUT I TRUST THAT THE
DISCUSSION CAN BE CONTINUED LATER, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION

THE RELATION BETWEEN THIS SUBJECT AND OTHER EQUALLY IMPORTANT ONES.

WE APPRECIATED THE REPORT BETWEEN THIS SUBJECT AND OTHER EQUALLY IMPORTANT ONES.

WE APPRECIATED THE REPORT PREPARED BY SHAPE AS WELL AS THE CONSIDERATIONS CONTAINED IN PO/75/5, CONCERNING THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF A REVISION OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE.

IN GENERAL, WE BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ABLE TO SHARE THE CONCLUSIONS FOR MODERNIZING THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR ARSENAL IN EUROPE. INDEED, THE STRUCTURE OF THIS ARSENAL SEEMS TO PRESENT SOME SIGNS OF OBSOLESCENCE AND APPEARS NO LONGER TO CORRESPOND COMPLETELY TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF A FLEXIBLE AND SELECTIVE UTILIZATION WHICH THE STRATEGY OF GRADUATED RESPONSE REQUIRES. IT SEEMS, INDEED, THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF ARMAMENTS OF A REDUCED YIELD, MORE ADVANCED AND WITH LIMITED SIDE EFFECTS, WOULD BE MORE SUITABLE TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR USE IN THE SCENARIO ENVISAGED.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, ONE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS - OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL ORDER - OF A SIZEABLE REDUCTION IN QUANTITY OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR ARMS IN EUROPE, AS WELL AS OF THE REMOVAL OF PART OF THESE ARMS TO THE UNITED STATES. WE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY, ABOVE ALL, THAT THE DETERRENT CAPABILITY OF NATO'S TACTICAL NUCLEAR ARM SHOULD BE MAINTAINED INSTANT. MAINTENANCE OF THIS CAPABILITY SHOULD BE AIMED AT PREVENTING OUR OPPONENTS FROM MISJUDGING THE ACTUAL POTENTIAL OF THE WEST AS WELL AS THE ALLIANCE'S WILL TO ENSURE ITS DEFENSE. ANY

MODIFICATION IN TACTICAL NUCLEAR DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE COULD BE JUSTIFIED ONLY IF IT WOULD NOT BRING ABOUT A NET/OVERALL REDUCTION IN THE STRENGTH OF THE ALLIANCE
SECRET

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AND ESPECIALLY IF THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TYPES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE APT TO ENHANCE - IN THE PHASE OF IMMEDIATE USE AS WELL AS IN THE FOLLOW-ON PHASE - A VERY WIDE SCALE OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO NATO.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT A REDUCTION IN TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD ALSO HAVE A PSYCHOLOGICALLY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION IN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE. IT IS CLEAR THAT ANY FORM OF DOUBT ON THE PART OF PUBLIC OPINION MUST BE AVOIDED INsofar AS THE ALLIANCE'S CAPABILITY OF REPELLING POSSIBLE ATTACK IS CONCERNED.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE THAT WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES RETAIN THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DECISION PROCESS RELATIVE TO THE USE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS CONCERNS PARTICULARLY THE QUICK REACTION ALERT FORCES, FOR WHICH RESTRUCTURING HAS BEEN ENVISAGED. THIS RESTRUCTURING MUST NOT BRING ABOUT AN ACTUAL DECREASE IN THE EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN THIS ROLE.

FINALLY, I CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO POINT OUT THAT ANY REDUCTION IN TACTICAL NUCLEAR ARMS ON THE PART OF THE WEST IS CONCEIVABLE ONLY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF MBFR. INDEED, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SIMPLE HYPOTHESIS OF A UNILATERAL REDUCTION IN THIS TYPE OF ARMS WOULD LIMIT TO A VERY CONSIDERABLE EXTENT THE VALUE OF POSSIBLE OFFERS OF REDUCTION BY THE WEST, IN THE EVENT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD REQUIRE A HIGHER PRICE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN DECISIVE RESULTS.
END TEXT. BRUCE

SECRET

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